



California Environmental Protection Agency

Air Resources Board

FACTS ABOUT

REDUCING POLLUTION FROM CALIFORNIA'S TRASH TRUCKS

California has a new program to greatly reduce the health-damaging diesel smoke that comes from the 13,000 trucks that collect trash each week from homes and businesses. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) took this action as part of a continuing effort to reduce the amount of diesel smoke or particulate matter (PM) that fouls our air. Trash collection trucks contribute significantly to the PM problem in residential communities and business districts on trash collection days. Diesel PM causes serious health problems such as cancer, and also aggravates and worsens asthma, other respiratory ailments and heart problems. In California, diesel PM contributed to 2,900 premature deaths, 3,600 hospital admissions, 240,000 asthma attacks and respiratory symptoms, and as many as 600,000 lost work days in 2000. By comparison, in that year, there were approximately 3,700 auto accident fatalities and 2,000 deaths by homicide in the state.

Benefits

The health benefits of this regulation are substantial. The rule will achieve a reduction in toxic PM emissions from trash trucks by as much as 81 percent by 2010 and 85 percent by 2015 from levels that existed in 2000. This means more than 2 million pounds of PM will not be released into our air. We estimate that 80 PM-related deaths will have been prevented by the year 2020. An additional benefit is the reduction of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by 30,000 tons. NOx contributes to ozone, one of the most harmful constituents of urban smog.

Schedule

The implementation schedule requires waste collection companies and government agencies that operate their own waste collection trucks to gradually phase in cleaner trucks from 2004 through 2010. Implementation can be accomplished in several ways, including equipping trucks with devices that reduce diesel PM, switching trucks to non-diesel fuels, buying new trucks or engines that meet lower PM standards or combinations of these solutions.

Costs

Compliance costs vary greatly. ARB staff estimates that statewide the regulation's costs will average out to approximately \$12 per household over the implementation schedule of 2004 to 2020, or a yearly average of less than \$1 per household. Costs may be higher or lower, depending on the mix of solutions needed and the age of the trucks serving a particular area.

Generally, newer trucks are easier and less expensive to clean up. Because California's rule allows for a mix of solutions, costs per truck can range from \$3,000 to over \$100,000 (for a new truck).

How will this affect you?

Since all California residents will enjoy the benefits of this regulation, waste collection companies should not stand alone in shouldering the costs. This being the case, in passing this regulation, the ARB's Board stated it expects that municipalities and service providers will work together to amend or renegotiate contracts as needed so waste collection fees reflect legitimate cost increases that may come from reducing diesel PM emissions. The benefit to you and all other California residents will be cleaner air and improved health.

For more information

For more information about the waste collection vehicle regulation you can visit the following ARB website: www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/SWCV/SWCV.htm. For more information about efforts to reduce PM emissions from other diesel engines, visit <http://www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/factsheets/factsheets.htm> or <http://www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/dieselrrp.htm>.